GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6651
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2015
MARINE BIOLOGY INSTITUTE
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Marine Biology Institute in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the location identified for the purpose;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result of establishment of the said institute; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes, Madam. Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with France to establish a Marine Biology Institute in India.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between DBT, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and the Universite Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC) on April 10, 2015 towards the establishment of National Institute of Marine Biology and Biotechnology in India. The location for the Institute is yet to be finalized.

The objectives of the MoU are:
The aim of this MoU is to establish the framework of the future cooperation between the Parties. The future cooperation will cover Scientific research and development, educational and training, technical and logistical aspects including their legal and financial aspects.
Under this MOU, the French parties will assist the DBT in the completion of a technical requirement and feasibility study for the establishment of the Marine Biology Institute. While the DBT develops all the necessary documents for the establishment of the Marine Biology Institute.

(c) CNRS and UPMC have a long history and experience in the field of marine sciences. Through the three leading French marine stations located in Banyuls-sur-Mer, RoscoffF, and Villefranche-sur-Mer, they have developed excellence in research and teaching, with proven experience in the management of marine research infrastructures, and they are internationally recognized as amongst the best marine stations. DBT will leverage this expertise for:
the building process of the Indian Marine Biology Institute, involving scientists, administrative representatives and technical staff;
the internationalization of training in marine biology and connected subjects by the mean of students exchanges and joint programs on both French and Indian sides;
the development of common research projects. The three sides have agreed to organize a scientific workshop at the earliest to discuss the research themes that will define the scientific activities of the future Indian Marine Biology Institute. The inputs from the workshop will be invaluable in developing the scientific direction of the new Marine Biology Institute.

(d) The proposed time for the Cabinet approval and Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for establishing the Institute is within this current financial year.